

*2015 Development Policy Financing Retrospective
Consultation Meeting*

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Date:	June 16, 2015
Location:	Yerevan, Armenia
Total Participants:	19

Consultations were held via video conference with stakeholders in Armenia (see list in Annex 1) on the preliminary findings of the 2015 Development Policy Financing (DPF) Retrospective. Gohar Gyulumyan (Senior Economist, Macroeconomics & Fiscal Management,) gave brief opening remarks and Jasmin Chakeri (Senior Economist, Operations Policy and Country Services) presented the preliminary findings of the Retrospective. The meeting was moderated by Vigen Sargsyan (Senior Communications Officer, World Bank in Armenia).

Overview and General Reactions

The participants recognized the importance of DPF in Armenia, noting the instrument's contributions to creating stronger reforms. They expressed satisfaction with the World Bank's support for critical policy and institutional reforms. There was also appreciation expressed for the participatory role that stakeholders have played in the Armenia DPF along with suggestions on how to make future engagements more effective. Participants also provided several other ideas on how to improve the country's portfolio of DPOs, including more robust formation of prior actions, better overall coordination and management of DPF, and integration of social accountability mechanisms. Other comments and questions centered on ensuring good governance in DPF, and integrating DPF with other World Bank financing instruments.

Main Issues Raised

Consultation and participatory processes in DPF

A number of the civil society representatives showed appreciation for the participatory role they have played in the development of DPF operations in Armenia, giving them the opportunity to provide input into the design of prior actions. At the same time, the overall coordination and management of

stakeholders in DPF was identified as an area in need of improvement, particularly during the design phase of a DPF. In order to further strengthen CSO involvement, there was a suggestion that consultations with non-governmental entities on DPF be sector specific, rather than multi-sector; and to provide the opportunity to discuss specific prior actions (rather than just the overall program) with CSOs.

Suggestions on how to make DPF more effective

There were several comments and questions concerning the effectiveness of prior actions. Participants felt they were critical and contributed to stronger reforms in Armenia. Concurrently, they also felt there was room for improvement, by, for instance, focusing on bolder and more ambitious reforms that go beyond administrative measures. Such reforms would need to be underpinned by robust poverty and social impact analyses and accompanied by mitigation measures, if needed.

Participants mentioned that coordination among the different government agencies involved in implementing DPF-supported reforms is key. Centralized management has been strengthened recently in order to deal with conflicting interests and disagreement among agencies.

Participants commented on the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability around DPF, with an emphasis on assessing governance risks, developing strong M&E systems, and involving communities and civil society to support accountability. A suggestion was made for integration of more social accountability mechanisms in DPOs, which could strengthen risk management and the overall effectiveness of programs.

Another topic that was brought up is the need to clarify and strengthen the horizontal links between World Bank instruments. For instance, there are opportunities for DPF to support policy and institutional reforms that are needed to make investment projects more effective.

Annex:



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PARTICIPANTS LIST

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Location: Yerevan, Armenia

Total Participants: 19

	Participant Name	Organization Represented [NAME]	Organization Type	Country
1	Makar Ghambaryan	Prime-Minister's office	Government	Armenia
2	Armen Melkikyan	Ministry of Finance	Government	Armenia
3	Nune Hovhannisyan	Ministry of Nature Protection	Government	Armenia
4	Anahit Alexandryan	Ministry of Nature Protection	Government	Armenia
5	Vigen Avetisyan	Ministry of Nature Protection	Government	Armenia
6	Astghik Minasyan	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Government	Armenia
7	Anahit Martirosyan	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	Government	Armenia

8	Ruzanna Khachatryan	Civil Service Council	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
9	Armine Manookian	IMF	Multilateral Organization	Armenia
10	Varsenik Mnatsakanyan	GIZ PFM program	Bilateral Organization	Germany
11	Gor Khachatryan	GIZ PFM program	Bilateral Organization	Germany
12	Lusine Kharatyan	DVV international Branch office in Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
13	Varazdat Sargsyan	World Vision Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
14	Grigori Grigoryants	World Vision Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
15	Heghine Manasyan	Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC)-Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
16	Sona Ayvazyan	Transparency International Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
17	Sevak Hovhannisyan	EV Consulting	Private Sector	Armenia
18	Vahan Movsisyan	Community Finance Officers Association of Armenia	Non-Governmental Organization	Armenia
19	Uwi Basaninyenzi	World Bank	Multilateral Organization	United States